

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION**

<b>THOMAS NICHOLS,</b>	)	
<b>ID # JB-6273,</b>	)	
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	)	
<b>vs.</b>	)	<b>No. 3:13-CV-4621-P-BH</b>
	)	
<b>JASON KIDD</b>	)	
<b>Defendant.</b>	)	<b>Referred to U.S. Magistrate Judge</b>

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

Pursuant to Special Order No. 3-251, this *pro se* case has been automatically referred for screening. Based on the relevant filings and applicable law, the application should be **DENIED**, and the case should be dismissed for failure to prosecute or follow court orders.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On November 19, 2013, the plaintiff filed this action against the defendant. (*See* doc. 3.) On November 20, 2013, the Court issued a *Notice of Deficiency and Order* notifying him that he had not filed his complaint on the appropriate form or either paid the \$350 filing fee nor submitted a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* (IFP). (*See* doc. 3.)<sup>1</sup> He was ordered to submit his complaint on the appropriate enclosed form and to either pay the fee or file an IFP motion within 30 days. *Id.* More than 30 days from the date of the notice of deficiency have passed, but the plaintiff has not submitted an amended complaint on the appropriate form or either paid the filing fee or filed an IFP motion. Nor has he filed anything else in this case.

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<sup>1</sup> As of May 1, 2013, a \$50 administrative fee will be assessed in addition to the \$350 filing fee, resulting in a total filing fee of \$400 for a civil action in which the plaintiff has not sought or been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *See* District Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule. Where a prisoner plaintiff has been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, only the \$350 filing fee will be deducted from the prisoner's account. *See id.* The \$50 administrative fee will not be deducted. *Id.*

## **II. INVOLUNTARY DISMISSAL**

Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permits a court to dismiss an action *sua sponte* for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court. *McCullough v. Lynaugh*, 835 F.2d 1126, 1127 (5th Cir. 1988) (§ 1983 prisoner action). This authority flows from a court's inherent power to control its docket, prevent undue delays in the disposition of pending cases, and avoid congested court calendars. *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-31 (1962). The plaintiff failed to file an amended complaint on the correct form and to either pay the filing fee or file an IFP motion. He has not filed anything else or otherwise shown that he intends to proceed with this case in federal court, so it should be dismissed.

## **III. RECOMMENDATION**

This case should be dismissed without prejudice under Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) for failure to prosecute or follow orders of the court, unless the plaintiff files an amended complaint on the correct form and either pays the filing fee or files an IFP motion within the time for objection to this recommendation, or some other time set by the Court.

**SIGNED this 6th day of January, 2014.**



IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND  
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of these findings, conclusions and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of these findings, conclusions and recommendation must file specific written objections within fourteen days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's findings, conclusions and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).

  
IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE